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ANSWER

To a late Pamphlet, Intituled,

DBSERVATIONS

ONTHE

WRITINGS

OF THE

RAFTSMAN.

Being a Third

LETTER of ADVICE,

o the People of Great-Britain and Ireland, &c.

I O N D O N:

nted for R. FRANCKLIN in Russel-street, Coventa

Garden, 1731.

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ANSWER

To a late

PAMPHLET, &c.

Have always had the utmost Contempt for infignishcant, unreasoning, florid Declamations upon serious Subjects. When the most important Concerns of a Nation are at Stake, I confess, it moves my Indignation to see a little Epigrammatical Politician, start up, with a Shool-boy's Conceit, dress'd out in the usual Ornaments of such Compositions; especially, when the Author's fordid Purpose stares us sull in the

Face through every Line.

The Pamphlet, which lies before me and gives Occasion to these Thoughts, is indeed such a pompous Jargon of Words, without answering any one Point, or aiming at any End, that it may seem beneath all Criticism; and I find the Gentlemen concern'd look upon it in this Light, by not having taken the least Notice of it; but, as many Things become considerable, by some particular Circumsances which attend them; so, perhaps, it may be thought that even this frothy Piece of Pedantry hath some Value stamp'd upon it by the Approbation of Those, who have order'd their Greatures to cry it up as an excellent Performance, and taken great Pains to propagate it through the Kingdom. This will, at least, be my Excuse for bestowing

stowing a few cursory Remaaks upon it, without any Re-

gard to the Thing itself, or the Author of it.

One Way of exposing the Nothingness of fuch Productions, is by throwing back the Shuttlecock; and making Use of their own little Turns to condemn the Cause, which They mean to defend. That this frivolous Manner of Writing may appear in a stronger Light, I will begin with shewing that, in many Places, the same Sentence, with the Change or Omission only of a Word or two, will read much better on the contrary Side. I hope the Observator will not make any Objections to this Method of dallying with Him; fince it hath been so often practis'd by his ingenious Brethen, the Writers against the Craftsman; and He will perceive, from the Sequel, that it is not my Defign to dwell long upon fuch a trifling Way of answering an Adversary; but only to expose it, and for the Sake of reviving my Schoolboy's Talent of writing npon a Theme.

For this Reason, I shall not trouble myself with the personal Circumstances of the Author.—Sometimes He kunts with the Minister. Sometimes, He turns over the mouldy Records of Philosophers, But, by his frequent Theological Allusions, and his favourite Peal of Bells, He seems to be a Divine; whom the Death of the Bishop of Durham, and the Train-Trow of Preferments, ensuing upon that Event, have affected with the warm Scent of some fat Benefice.—Poor Caleb! How the most ordinary

Events are turn'd to thy Destruction?

I shall now proceed to the Author's Words, with a few paraphrastical Alterations, distinguish'd in Italicks.

few paraphrastical Alterations, distinguish'd in Italicks.

'I am not ignorant of the unequal Terms, upon which 'He enters the Lifts in a Paper-War, who draws his

Pen on the defensive Side. Those, who engage the Hopes, the Govetousness, and the Ambition of Mankind

to their Party, will generally, I fear, lead more numer-

ous Troops and find much better Encouragement than Those, who sollicit the Love of their Country and appeal

to Justice.

'For as most Men have those Passions, whilst few are bless'd with a publick Spirit, and Men are generally more fond

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fond of a Pension than a Pillory; fo the Glare of Gourt-Favour, though nevet so basely acquir'd, will dazzle much greater Numbers than the clearest Reasoning and most conclusive Arguments will ever enlighten.

But notwithstanding the Disadvantages, which, from the self interested Disposition of Human Kind, They sometimes labour under, who undertake the juster Cause; as I statter myself that on some Occasions, the Honesty of their Minds may recoil against their Propensity to Flattery, and will not suffer the Depravity of their Natures to get the better of their Conciences; I shall not be deterred by the Discouragements I have enumerated from entering into a short Examination of the original Design, Progress and Essects of the Writings against the Craftsman.

The first Article of Impeachment is their having usurp'd a Right of circulating guarded Treasons and weekly Falshoods throughout the Kingdom.—But before We proceed to the Defence, it is necessary to define and settle the Meaning of the Terms made Use of in the Indistment.

First, the Phrase, usurping, seems to accknowledge that there is an undoubted, indefeazeable Right of circulating Fallboods vested in some Persons; and that the Crastisman is only an Usurper of it: If this is really the Case, our Author is much to be commended for endeavouring to depose Him; and for my Part, I am ready to own the Right of Those, who have so long exercised this noble Impersection with unlimited Authority.

The next remarkable Term, made Use of in the Inlietment, is the Word circulating; by which, I presume, We
are to understand sending Papers about the Country; and
I believe the best Circulators will be found on the Side of
this Author and his Patrons; for They have the Clerks of
the Post-Office, Customs and Excise; who are not only indulg'd in the same Privilege with Members of Parliament
to frank Letters, but may possibly be commanded to take
off and disperse many Papers, even at the publick Expence;
by which Means, They are become the most considerable
Hawkers in the Kingdom. I am likewise told, that these
Officers have been lately laid under some Restraints, and

prohibited, on Pain of Dismission, from getting a Penny in their Way, by circulating any of the Craftsman's guarded Treasons. Their chief Business, at present, consists in circulating weekly Falsboods and the unguarded, explicit Treasons of the London Journal and the Free-Briton.

In the last Place, the Term guarded Treasons deserves

fome Notice.

I never apprehended before, that there was any other Species of written Treason, but afferting the Pretender's Right to the Crown, or denying That of his present Majesty King George, and the Succession in his Family. Is the Crafifman guilty, upon this Article, by constantly and clearly defending the Principles of the Revolution, and the Parliamentary Right of limiting the Succession to the Crown? No; the Treason, with which he stands charg'd, is guarded Treafon. Guarded by what? - By the Law; that is, Treason, which the Law hath not declared to be Treason. I don't like, by any Means, this new Species of Treason, which is not to be found in our Statute-Books. Guarded Treason, in the Hands of a guarded Minister, may prove very dangerous. I rake this Term, according to its natural Interpretation, to mean something, which might be wrested into Treason in a Court of Justice, if the Law did not guard the pretended Delinquent; something, which would be call'd Treason, if We had an Attorney-General, and no Law; but is not Treason, fince we have Law, as well as an Attorney-General.—This same Law is a strange, uncourtly, uncomplaifant Sort of a Thing; and ties up the Hands of an angry Minister, in a most unreasonable Manner.

But fince this Writer hath thought fit to coin a new Species of Treason, I must put him in Mind, that there is not a more heinous Kind of Treason, than to undermine those Foundations of the Constitution, which equally support the Rights of the Crown, and the Liberties of the People. They are inseparably cemented together; and he, who attempts to shake the one, must of Course weaken the

other

Before I leave this Head, I must just take Notice that the Case of poor Mr. D' Anvers, seems to be very odd and extraordinary. Whilst he is openly threaten'd with Correction by one Writer, who is a profess'd Nonjuring Parson for being too much a Whig, and having spoken diffespect-fully

fully of might fa ving a Crown, the Cafe Eight;

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fully of some of the Stuarts, he is charg'd by another (I might fay by feveral others) with being a Jacobite, and having a Design to set up the Pretender, who claims the Crown, as Heir of that Family. This is somewhat like the Case of our Countrymen in the Reign of Harry the Eight; when they were hang'd for being Papists, and burn'd for being Protestants; Dij immortales! (cry'd a Foreigner) quomodo vivunt Homines in istis Regionibus? Suspen-

duntur Papistici; comburuntur Anti-Papistici.

If the Author of the Observations should likewise prove to be a Nonjuring Parson, (as the Town generally supposes him to be) I leave it to be confider'd whether his Refentment against the Writings of the Grafisman, may not proceed from the same Motives, which actuate his Brother Earbery; and whether he might not think the most politick Way of venting his Spleen, was to take upon himself the Character of a Courtier, and write under the Disguise of an Advocate for the Ministry.

But to proceed in our Author's Strain.

P. 7. A certain, GREAT MAN hath, by a fort of Papal Authority, taken upon him to dictate to his Fellowlabourers in the Ministry, as dogmatically, as unfairly, and 'as ignorantly as his Holiness; and to impose his Opinions and Measures as infallible; and when experience hath proved the one erroneous, and the other unsuccessful, his Invention supplies his Wisdom, endeavouring to correct the past Blunder with a fresh one.

But unless he could contrive that the Reading of publick Papers should be prohibited to the English, as the Gospel is to the Followers of the Pope, his Frauds may chance to be derected; the Sect of political Fansenists increase; and his Bills not received with implicit Faith.

I had once resolved to pass over this Paragraph of our Author, which contains some indecent Reflections on our worthy Friend the Cardinal. Far be it from me, to disturb that facred and mysterious Union between two great Ministers; by which, at the same Time, the Papal Dominion is strenghtened in France, and the Protestant Succession supported in England.

But the Craftsman treats the Minister too roughly; on which Occasion our Author makes the following Reflecti-

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frespectfully P. S. For as the Brutality of an Executioner does not prove the Innocence of him who fuffers; so it is possi-

ble for a Criminal to deserve his Punishment, though

one abhors the Hand that inflicts it.

It appears from hence, that it is the Brutality of the Attack, and not the Innocence of the Party attacked, which hath induced the Author to publish these notable Observations; but is not the Law to be put in Execution, because Jack Ketch may sometimes behave himself a little butcherly in his Office?—I contess, indeed, that Halters, and Axes, and Pillories, and Scaffolds, are not very agreeable Objects either to a good-natur'd or a wicked Man; but whatever this Author may think of them, I am sure his Patron will allow that they have been of some Use to his Administration, and ought not to be laid intirely aside.

P. 9. Many pompous Professions are daily made for the Design of their Undertaking. Private Views were the

Mask of publick Good; the Spirit of Slavery affects the Drefs and Language of the Spirit of Liberty; the Wel-

fare of the Nation, and Loyalty to the King, are made

the plaufible Pretences, for throwing amongst the Pcople, such Doctrines as tend to the Destruction of his Govern-

ment.

For a little while, indeed, all the Arrows in their

Quiver, feem'd to be directed folely at one Mark; a Gentleman, who happened to vent a Piece of guarded Trea-

fon in the House of Commons; preferring the Safety of the

Nation to the Preservation of the Minister.

But if I am righly informed of that Affair, (which hath been so often exaggarated as a bloody-minded Vow) it was no more than a warm Expression, signifying his Resolution to do what in him lay, to destroy the Power of the Minister; for he immediately added, as a Reason, that he would otherwise destroy the Nation; and if all his Attempts to sulfil this Vow should prove unsuccessful, it is to be feared, that the prophetical Part of his Speech, will soon be too amply verify'd.

or drink, till he had done the Nation this Piece of Service, the present, plump Condition of his Person, is a plain Proof that he hath broke it most flagrantly; and he hath only

rais'd his Adversary to a Parallel with St. Paul.

What

him in for Prison, as amogst faciples, when this he, we who now lyance?—the Saint Craftsman. How this a Miracle

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What an Honour is it for St. Paul to be the Type of a first Minister of three Kingdoms? If the Sir does not come quite up to the Saint, can it be denied that he resembles him in some Circumstances? Hath not the Minister been in Prison, as well as the Saint?—Hath he not been in Perils amogst false Brethren?—Hath he not renounc'd the Principles, which he once espous'd with great Zeal?—Is not this he, who formerly perfecuted frenchify'd Ministers, and who now preacheth up the glad Tidings of a French Allyance?—O, may the Sir Minister never stand in need of the Saint's Basket?—How impotent is this Ananias of a Graftsman, who hath not been yet able to open his Eyes?— How thick and adherent must those Scales be, which scarce

a Miracle can make to fall of?

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' However as the whole Stream of their Malice, for some Time, flow'd only in this Channel, to vilify this great Minister's Name; so, on the other hand, no less Industry and Art were used to extoll his Conduct; to magnify his Services; to brighten his Character; and fortify his Credit with his Prince. All Hands were employ'd; and all Engines fet at work. Letters were forged and pretended to be intercepted at the Post-Office, in which the Continuance of his Administration was represented of the utmost Importance to publick Credit; the Press was loaded; Coffee-house Lyons, Table-Spies, and Bottle Companions had their Instructions given them; the grossest Falshoods were inculcated in the grossest Terms; the sacred Recesses of Families were invaded; the more sacred Reputation of the Fair Sex was violated; private Conversation was made the Subject of perjur'd Affidavits; and the Laws of Nature, Custom, Principle, Morality and Society trampled upon and broken.

Minerva's, Fames with double Trumpet and all the fabulous Machinery of the Ancients, were introduced to oppose the Sejanus's, and Wolfey's of former Ages, and the Menzikoffs, Cofcia's and Mackheaths of later Dates. Italicks grew so familiar on both sides, that it occasioned even a

new Foundery of those Letters.

But still the great Man was able to repel the Weapons of his Adversaries, by the Superior Temper of his Metal. His Quiet was invulnerable, (pardon the Impropriety of the Auther's Expression, achieb is the Effect of his being already dry-· brain d brain'd of Epithets) and he contemn'd Accusations, which

his well-temper'd Conscience did not feel; he missook the

Voice of the People for the Voice of his personal Enemies; confider'd all their Clamour as the Effect of Competition.

Disappointment, and a Tax upon Royal Favour. Oh!

may he place this Tax to the Account of the Sinking Fund

in lieu of those Sums, which he hath taken from it!

When our Author made his pretty Observation, that the most illuminated Bodies have the deepest Shadows, he seems to have had St. Peter in his Eye, whom the People follow'd in Crowds, to be bless'd with the Sweep of his Shadow, as he pass'd by; and he wou'd, no doubt, have introduc'd this Apostle, as well as St. Paul, in his Pangerick, had it not been for that unlucky Circumstance in the History of his Life; Silver and Gold have I none.

Nothing is more observable than the sudden Tranfitions of this Author, and his Skill in jumbling incoherent Metaphors together, as will appear from the sol-

lowing Paragraph.

P. 13. 'But when this Scent became so cold, that political sportsmen grew weary of following a Pack of Ani-

mals, (now you fee, they are Hounds) who were always barking at a Prey they could not wound, and following

what they could not overtake; and that these Writer

had rung the Changes (now they are Ringers) on the Words Corruption, Bribery, Male-Administration, Oppres

Words Corruption, Bribery, Male-Administration, Oppression and Injustice, till People were so habituated to the

Vox & praterea nihil, that the Peal laid those to sleep

whom the Ringers propos'd it should alarm.

He might have added five more Bells to this Peal, and made it compleat; French-Allyances, Depredations, Dunkirk, Hessians, Irish-Recruits; and if He had been at a little more Pains, He might have even furnish'd out a Dutch Chime.

But, dear Sir, let me advise you to be a little more sparing of your Metaphors, or to chuse them better. Take my Word for it, that the barking of Dogs, and the jangling of Bells, are two of the most unlikely Things you could have possibly hit upon, to lull any Body a-sleep. Why, a Man must read three or four Pages even of your own Works before he can possibly get a Nap, either in a Bell-fry or a Dog-Kennel.—But if the Craftsman's Bells have laid Those

to fleep Observat flurbing necessar them do tron is n to such

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to sleep, whom he propos'd to alarm, why so angry good Mr. Observator? And wherefore do you run the Risque of disturbing the good People in their Slumbers, by these unnecessary Remarks?—I am sure it is your Business to let them doze on as long as they please; and I think your Patron is much oblig'd to Mr. D' Anvers for ringing them into such political Lethargy, just as Nurses sing their Children

a-fleep, when they have a mind to be merry.

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The succeeding Paragraphs ought to be treated with more Gravity and Respect, on Account of that sacred Name, which is introduc'd almost in every Line; though it is well known that his prefent Majesty had no Hand in those Measures, which brought the Nation into that dangerous and uncertain Situation, which he lamented and complain'd of in his Speech to his first Parliament. No Endeavours were spared, indeed, by the Authors of the Miscarriages of the former Reign, to shift the Burthen upon their new Mafter; a more severe Attack on his Honour, than all the misconstrued Allusions of the Craftsman, from the Conquest to this Moment; for notwithstanding the Author's Dilemma, a. King may be warn'd of the Iniquities of his Minister, without calling in question the Goodness either of his Heart or his Head; and to affirm the contrary, is at once to overturn all the political Maxims of the law, and the Constitution of England. Princes may have Reasons, which it is not proper to declare. I have known an Architect left to finish a Building, in a very bad Style of his own contriving; and a very unskilful Engineer kept to look after a Machine of his own framing, because no body else would undertake to correct its constant, erroneous Motions, when it was more proper to pull it to Pieces than endeavour to fet it right.

The next Paragraph charges the Craftsman with slattering the King, and cajoling the Mob. As to the King, the greatest Respect that can be paid to any Prince, is to tell him Truth; and I do not remember that any other Art hath been made use of by the Craftsman. As to the People, whom this Author calls the Mob, I answer in the Style of Gamaliel, (and yet I protest I am no Parsen) if this Counsel is not founded on Truth and Reason, it will come to nought. It is impossible to make People uneasy with Grievances, which they do not feel. Faction is always impotent, when the Administration is wife and honest.

It is remarkable, that all the Writers of this Stamp, are very angry with the People for reading and admiring the Craftsman. Our Author speaks of them; at the Beginning of his Pamphlet, like brute Beasts, having no Understanding; though I shrewdly suspect that his Anger proceeds from their discovering too much Understanding, to be cajol'd by him and his Patrons. This puts me in mind of Mr. Sparkish in the Play, who being sensible that his Follies laid him open to Satire and Ridicule, took up an Aversion to all Writers, and breaks out into the following Exclamation.—Damn all your filly Authors whatever; all Books and Boooksellers, by the World; and all Readers, cour-

teous and uncourteous.

Let us consider the Circumstances of the Writers of the Craftsman, as they are stated by the Author; and here it is proper to take notice, that he fet out with telling us, that it was his Delign to consider their Allegations, without entering into the Characters of Those, who advance them; though he begins, in the very next Line, with calling Names; and, in this Place, They are said to be a Set of idle, desperate Fellows, who have no Characters to lofe, and nothing worse to fear; inured to Hanging; (which is one of the worlt Habits a Man can be addicted to) perpetually declaring against the Pretender, and inculcating Principles absolutely destructive of his Interest; yet at the same Time incensing the present Government. I believe I may add, that these Writers have no Pensions, Salaries, or Gratuities for their Papers, befides the weekly Contributions of their loving Readers. -From whence then can their Expectations arise? The Great Man attack'd (however this Author may flatter Him) is far from being an Object of Envy to any of them (as much as they are inur'd to the Danger of Hanging) and, whatever he may imagine, of personal Hatred to none. From whence then arises their Zeal? In my Opinion, their Conduct, according to this Description, seems to be more Apostolick than those of the Minister; for they must be whimsical Fellows beyond Imagination, who court Preferment by disobliging Those, who can bestow it, and try to advance the Pretender's Interest, by preaching up Republican Principles; which is so tar from being true, that it is the universal Opinion, that for one Facobite the Crafisman hath made, a sertain great Man hath made his Thousands; and whosoever deals in the Manutacture of Facobite-making, the Minister must always supply the Materials.

It is a feridiculous der's Views and I still fent, may, vanced by ferved the ons; but 1 this Machine Many P

of Westmin himself us and often plags out of Time, ma Care to we making; a the straglish that Bass I I call Pan

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It is a fensible Pleasure to every honest Man to see those ridiculous Doctrines, which gave any Life to the Pretender's Views, abandoned by all People of common Sense; and I still believe that the Constitution, as it stands at present, may, and must be supported by the Principles, advanced by the Crassisman. The Pretender, indeed, hath served the Ministry, upon several most important Occasions; but surely it is not altogether politick to employ this Machine upon so trisling a Subject as poor Caleb.

Many Persons now alive remember Bass Brown, Verger of Westminster-Abbey. He had but one Secret for keeping himself unrival'd in his Sovereign, the Dean's Favour, and often partaking of his Bounty; which was driving the Dogs out of the Church; but that he might, at the same Time, make his Ministry the more necessary, Bass took Care to whistle them into it. This may be call'd Plotmaking; and when the Terror of his Whip had made all the stragling Curs forsake even the Cloisters, I am told that Bass kept a Boy hid in a Corner, who could bark. This

I call Pamphleteering.

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But, says our Author, the Transition was easy from Minifers to Princes, and the same Methods, which had served to befame the one, were now employed to depreciate the other. In Pursuance of this Design, They recurr'd again to History for Parallels.—I affirm that this Method of attacking an Author is mean and ungenerous. It is not the Language of the Law; which, in all Censures for Male-Administration, excludes the present Possessor of the Throne. It is not the Language of Conversation, nor of Gentlemen. It is not the Language of Religion; for without impeaching Providence, one may find Fault with his Agents. It is protecting our selves from the Shot of an Enemy, by interposing the Body of our Father.—But let us see who is the Criminal in this Case.

A Workman is digging in old Rubbish. A Servant standing by, threws the Dirt by Handfulls upon his Master, and lays the Blame upon the Digger.—Let me state ano-

ther Cafe.

A great Lord is travelling a long Journey, under the Conduct of a Servant, whom, for want of a better Title, we shall call his Fac-totum. An honest Yeoman, an old Acquaintance of my Lord, accosts him after this Manner.

ner; My Lord, you are in a wrong Way; long; impassable; ill-accommodated; and beset with Robbers, Sir Harry the older and younger, and Sir Edward (your Ancestors) all came to fatal Accidents in taking this Route.'-My Lord, replies the Fac-totum, I defire vour Lordship to observe the Insolence of this Fellow who, without any Knowledge of your Lordship's Intentions, pretends to instruct your Lordship and Me, in what we must certainly know, and he is totally ignorant of; and This, forfooth, he is not fatisfy'd to do, without reflecting upon your Lordship's Character; for of the three Gentlemen mention'd, one was the fimopleft Fellow in the World; the other a Bully; and the third the arrantest Whore-Master of his Time.' Upon which some high Words ensued between the Fac-totum and the Countryman, Then, fays the Fac-totum, let us appeal to the Country, who ought to know; and calling up one of them and flipping a Crown-piece in his Hand, am not I in the right, Tom? To be fure, Mafter. A fecond, a third, a fourth answered, and were rewarded after the fame Manner. At last one took Part with the Yeoman-I remember you, Friend, quoth Fac. You were my Lord's Steward, and speak out of Spight, because you are discharg'd

I believe every Man, who is sufficiently informed, will allow the Prince, whom the Author mentions, to have all the good Qualities, which he hath enumerated, and many more. What diffinguishes him from most Persons of his high Rank, is Sincerity and Integrity; and one may truly affirm, that an bonest Man is a greater Character than the greatest Monarch without those Virtues. But, at the fame Time, I will fay that the great, personal Qualities of the Prince, are the most injudicious Topicks in the World for a Minister to infift upon, when National Affairs are evidently in a bad Situation; for, in fuch a Case, as much as the Character of the Prince rifes, fo much mult his own fink.—Let us confider this Matter quite speculatively, without affirming or denying any Thing; but by Way of Supposition only. If a Nation should be bullied under a warlike Prince; bubbled under a wife Prince; or run in Debt under a frugal one; if their Swords should be pad-lock'd under a Monarch, whose secret Inclinations lean towards the Scenes of Action; if there should be many

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Ebbs and Flows, Vicifitudes and Fluctuations in the Affairs of Peace and War, under a Prince of known Constancy, and whose Abilities are equal to his Application; such an unusual Conjunction of Royal Virtues and Royal Beams, amidst so many national Misfortunes, will undoubtedly make the Shade of the Minister still deeper. The People may very justly complain, in such a Case, that their Business is carried on, in a Congress, too much by the same Methods, by which it is managed at home; and that their Welfare hath heen made too subservient to the Interest of another Nation; Which (to use the Words of our Author) I am not able to name without blushing; for I must observe that these Ebbs and Flows of the Power and Interests of Europe, which he complains of, are so far from being any Excuse for bad Measures, that they are the properest Tools for an able Minister to work with; and are the most easily turn'd, by a Man of Parts and Dexterity, to the Advantage of his own Country; by never dipping it deep in any of the Quarrels of Europe; but keeping all its Princes in a Dependance on us, as their only Mediator and Refort in all Cases.—How weak is it therefore to urge that there have been no Errors and Defects in the Councils of Great-Britain; but that the Vicissitudes and Fluctuations of human Affairs, have been the Cause of our continuing, for so many Years together, in our present unhappy Situation, without any Vicissitude? There is a certain Place in the World, where this Author's Friend knows very well how to turn the Ebbs and Flows of some Affairs, to his own Advantage; and it is extremely unhappy for England, that his Genius does not extend farther than that narrow District.

This Author seems to be very well acquainted with the Method of facilitating domestick Measures; and hath pointed out the true Reason why they are more easily manag'd in Parliament, than foreign Transactions at a Congress; because, in the former Case, each Particular finds his distinct Interest in a ready Compliance on the right Side of

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One would imagine, indeed, by the Multiplicity of Treaties, which have been lately concluded, that they were as easily made as Acts of Parliament; and, perhaps, it would be happy for the Nation, if some of them could be as easily repeal'd.

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He tells us, in the next Paragraph, That our Credit is at as high a Mark as ever it was known to stand; and that our Trade, though it is at present in a very bad Way, will some Time or other be in a better. But does he want to be told, that the low Condition of our Trade is one of the principal Causes of the high Condition of, what he calls, our Credit? I mean, that since People cannot employ their Money in Trade, they are forc'd either to buy Stock, or let it lye dead? But what is our Credit? Why, the publick Debts; which are not the Riches, but the Poverty of the Nation; so that if this Observation is true, we have no Reason to rejoice at the high Condition of the one, and ought to lament the very low Condition of the other.

Supposing we were to make two Inventories; the one of the Minister, and the other of the Nation, when it was deliver'd into his Hands; I am afraid we should find a prodigious Variation in the Ballance at present. It would seem too invidious a Task for me to expatiate on the surprizing Increase of the former; and many People do not scruple to affirm, that the latter hath continued gradually declining in Proportion. They form, I hope without Reason, a long Bill of melancholy Particulars; Alliances inverted; exalting those Powers, which we ought to reduce, and depressing those, which we ought to support; impracticable Treaties; Hermorphrodite Measures, neither Peace nor War; Infults upon the Element, where we used to ride triumphant; Decay of Trade, without Abatement of Industry; Connivances at the Breach of the most folemn Stipulations; Complaints, where we us'd to threaten, and Supplications, where we were wont to compel; Troops, Taxes, and Increase of publick Debts; (the sole Fruits of eghteen Years Peace) and, to use the Anthor's Expression, that we are reduc'd to the Option of breaking with the Emperor or Spain; and, by pauning our most valuable Concerns into the Hands of a proud, exasperated Nation, to purchase a War with our natural Allies.

The next remarkable Objectation of our Author, is a round Affertion, that the Charge of Corruption is intirely groundless. Perhaps, it might be dangerous for me to contradict him in this Particular, if I had not the concurrent Testimony of the whole Legislature, that Corruption prevailed to a very great Degree without Doors, by the glorious

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AH, which they made to prevent it for the future; and the Bill, which afterwards passed our present, uncorrupt House of Commons, is a Proof of their Apprehensions that it might have imperceptibly infinuated itself even within Doors; for Persons never tye themselves up from Play, but when they are conscious of some natural Propensity of Gaming:

Besides, our Author would willingly confine the Notion of Corruption, to the Practice of selling Employments for Money; and desies us to produce one single Instance of it.—Alas! what Occasion is there to give Money for Places, when we all know, that they are often got for a Word

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'But, says he, had all these Representations they had made of the Decline, Contempt and Corruption of our Situation been faithful Reports, where must the Odium have

' fallen but on the HEAD of our State.'

How unfortunate is it for me, that I can hardly ever agree with this Writer? For supposing, as he does, that all these Representations of our Circumstances had been true, I think the Head of our State ought to be the last Person, on whom the Odium should fall. Whatever our Condition is at present, his Majesty found us in it. The Decline, Contempt, and Corruption of our Situation, were as loudly complain d of, before he came to the Throne, as They have been since. It is therefore not only unjust, but monstrously insolent to tax Him with our Missortunes, and mark him out to the People, as the proper Object of their Odium and Resentment.

Where must the Odium have fallen but on the Head of our State?—I'll tell this Author. It ought, in my Opinion, to have fallen on the Head of the Ministry, or rather on the Minister (if any such can be found) who had long ago, engrossed the sole Direction of all Assairs into his own Hands; who would admit of no Partner or Adviser in his Administration; but made himself answerable for the Consequence of his own wild Schemes; and, by a long Course of arbitrary Mismanagement, brought these Cala-

mities on the Nation.

flad our Affairs taken a presperous Turn, no-body should have been more ready than my self, to ascribe the Glory of them to the Head of our State; but to fix the Odium of

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unsuccessful Measures on the King, and say that the Demerit would have been only his, is such an Insult upon the Throne, as I cannot think of without Horror. It is making a Screen of Majesty; an audacious Interposition of the sacred Character of the Prince, to protect the Minister; and all the dull Flattery that follows, is far from being any Extenuation of his Guilt.

He proceeds thus. 'Nor hath the indefatigable Affiduity of Mr. D'Anvers, for the Service of his Majesty.

confin'd it felf meerly to the Advancement of his Honour as a King, but with equal Good-will, extended it felf even to the Care of his domestick Happiness.

'In this View (for in what other could it be?) he hath, with a Morality not inferiour to his Loyalty, not only dared to infult the Majesty of the best Queen, but endeavoured to cast a Shade over the Virtues of the best Woman.

He then sits down, like a great Apelles, to draw her Majesty's Picture, and very judiciously begins with those Qualities, which bear the nearest Relation to his own Circumstances; as her Liberality, or Readiness to give; her Affability, or Easiness to be solicited; and her Benevolence, or Good-nature to the Officious.

I shall take no Notice of his other Familiarities with her Majesty's Character; which can receive no Advantage from such course Daubing; but as all the Arrows, level'd at the Craftsman, have been taken out of this Quiver; and he is constantly charg'd with a Design against the present Royal Family and Government, I will endeavour to explain this Assair a little to Those, who have some

Understanding, as well as Passions.

The Government of England consists of three Parts, or Estates, (the King, the Lords, and the Commons) who have one Joint-interest, though their Powers and Privileges are separate and distinct. This is call'd our Gonstitution; which every honest Man ought to regard in the first Place, and to consider each particular Branch of it in a secondary Light only. The separate Interest of the Parts is one Thing. The united Interest of the whole is another; and superiour to them all, when distinctly consider'd. Whoever contends for the Constitution, in general, must be a Friend to all the Parts, of which it is compos'd; whereas Those,

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who endeavour by Adulation, or other base Means, to exalt the Power of any one Branch of it above the others, is an Enemy to the whole; which must be destroy'd, if his Endeavours succeed.—I will speak a little more plainly on this Subject; as every Englishman hath a Right to do.

The Craftsman hath afferted the Doctrine of Liberty, with a View to the Interest of the Nation in general, and without any particular Applications. He hath flewer that Liberty is the fundamental Basis of our Constitution; and that is cannot be preserv'd, without keeping the Spirit of italive. He hath produc'd Inflances, from History, of various Attempts, in various Reigns, against the Liberty of his Country; sometimes by Ministers; sometimes by Kings, and sometimes by Queens; which he hath apply'd to his general Doctrine; and shewn that when the Spirit of Liberty hath been preserv'd, all these Attempts have proved vain and abortive.—To fay that he does this with a Facobite View (as the little Fry of Scriblers against him have afferted) is triffing and infignificant.——It is done with a manifest View to preserve the Constitution, and the present Royal Family; which was placed at the Head of the Government, to preferve the Constitution upon these Printiples, and no other; for even the HEAD of our State (to use the Author's Phrase) is but one Branch of our Constitution, and ought to be look'd upon only in this Light. He is restrained by Lacus as well as the others; and bound by an Oath to maintain Them?—I am fure This is the Principle of an honest Briton. It is the Principle of the present Establishment; and of the Revolution, upon which it is founded. Let it not be faid, that I mention the Revolution, as a menacing Infinuation, or with any View to another. I mention it for the Honour of his present Majefy, as his Title is establish'd upon that glorious Foundation; (which ought never to be forgot;) and, I hope, the Crown of these Realms will continue in his Royal Family, till Time shall be no more; but it must continue upon this Principle of Liberty; and Those Men, who endeavour to instill any other Notions into his Royal Breast, are the most dangerous Enemies to his Government. They are vile Flatterers, and detestable Sycophants; who have been the worst Bane of Princes in all Ages. The

The Argumentation of our Author, upon this Head, is therefore as awkard as his Panegyrick. He taxes the Craft/man with drawing a Parallel between Edward the IVth's Queen, and her present Majesty; and yet, at the fame Time, gives the plainest Reason in the World, from the Matter of Fact mentioned by the Craftsman, that he could not mean it as such; because the Circumstances do not agree. There is certainly a wide Difference between a Paralell, and an Example; between an Invective and an Admonition: between a Conduct, erroneous in some Particulars, and a Character absolutely vicious. I will leave the World to judge, which of the two, most probably intends the Ship-wreck; he, who fets up the Beacon; or he, who takes it away? --- Where the rough Spirit of Liberty hath hurt one Prince, the smooth, deceitful Voice of Flattery, hath destroy'd a Thousand .- Charneck, King, and Keys, (those execrable Conspirators against our immortal Deliverer, King William) were not so dangerous as a Minister, who endeavours to persuade his Prince, that every Piece of extra-ministerial Advice, is an Arraignment of his Conduct; and that all Information from private Perfins reflects upon his own Circumspection.

Upon reading over the Arret against the forty Advocates, who have lately made an Attempt to revive the Power of the Parliaments of France, I cannot help thinking, that our Author had a Sight of it, before it was publish'd, and made it the Model of his Observations; for it is observable, that They both run in the some Style; and that the Principles of Liberty, which They condemn, are not very unlike. These Lawyers, for Instance, affert, that, by the Constitution of the Kingdom, the Parliaments are the Senate of the Nation; the sovereign Tribunal, and Depositories of the Laws of the State; that They have the Representative Character of the publick Authority; and that the LAWs are irue Conventions between Those, who govern, and Those, who are governed .- These Doctrines are call'd, in the Arret, A criminal Attempt to lessen the Respect of the People, for the King's Supreme Authority; seditious; and tending to disturb the publick Tranquility. For this Reason, the Pamplet, in which these pernicious Principles are contain'd, is order'd to be torn in Pieces; Mr. Lottin, the Printer (who seems to be the Francklin of France) is commanded

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was still Governm to produce the Written Copy; and the forty Advocates, who have subscribed it, have a Month allow'd them to sign a formal Recantation; in Default of which, They are to be suspended from all their Functions, and lest to the farther Rigour and Severity of the Law, as the Importance of the Matter requires.

I need not draw any farther Parallel between this Arrot and the Observations of our Author. The Reader will easily perceive that Authority supplies the want of Argument in Both; and that the Principles of Liberty are represented destructive of Government and the publick Tran-

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The only Passage, in this empty labour'd Declamation, which seems to have any Meaning or Design, besides Flattery and Abuse, is That, where the Author endeavours to fix a Contradiction upon the Crassisman. He charges Mr. D'Anvers with having said that the Spirit of Liberty and the Spirit of Fiction Never substitutes; and yet that, in the Crassisman of October the 3d, it is said, in Relation to the Case of the Yorkists and Lancastrians, though each Side contended to have a King of their own, neighbor Party would have a Tyrant. They sacrificed their Lives weather.

Upon which, this exquisite Reasoner makes the following Observation.—This sure demonstrates that the Spirit of Faction did reign, even among these Champions for Liberty.—And who, I pray, ever deny'd it?—I am sure the Grafisman and his Friend Mr. Oldcastle, have often made this Observation; particularly in the very Paper, from whence our Author hath taken this Passage; it is directly said that We must not imagine, notwithstanding all the contrary Appearances in this Period, that the Spirit of Liberty was absolutely extinguish'd. Though that Flame was less, for the most Part, in the constant Glare of Faction, yet it was still alive; and, by living, preserved the Constitution of our Governmeent during the whole Course of these Civil Wars.

Nay, to expose the Sophistry of this Author still farther; the Observation, which He instances, as a Proof of the Craftsman's Self-contradiction, is introduc'd in that very Paper, from whence He quotes it, as a memorable Exception to the general Proposition, that the Spirit of Liberty and the Spirit of Faction are incompatible and cannot long subsist together.

I do not remember any Assertion of the Graftsman that a Spirit of Liberty and a Spirit of Faction NEVER subsist together. I apprehend, on the Contrary, that the Design of his Argument for keeping up the Spirit of Liberty is to defeat the Ends of a Spirit of Faction.

But such a Cavil as This, does not deserve a serious Answer; and I should have taken no manner of Notice of it, if it had not been the only Point, which bears the least Appearance of Reasoning, or even of an Objection a-

gainst the Writings of the Graftsman.

To treat this Subject in a familiar Light; I take Faction, to be a well-looking, rantipole Strumpet; who happening to resemble Liberty, in some Features, takes upon her to personate the virtuous Lady; as some Gentlewomen of the Town have done Maids of Honour. She affects her Dress, Mein and Voice; often frequents the same Walks, and sometimes gets into the same Company; which is a plain Sign that the fair Lady, whom she represents, must be very amiable Herself; but though the Jade may draw in a Cully now and then, there is no Instance of her having ever imposed on the whole Town.

To sum up the Author's whole Evidence, it appears that this same Craftsman, not having the Fear of God before his Eyes, hath wickedly plotted the Destruction of the Minister; and, proceeding in a Course of guarded Treasons, is guilty of legal Conspiracy against the present Government, by preaching up the Principles of the Revolution, and putting the People in mind of their ancient hereditary Liberties; that He hath for these four Years past, carried on an hellish Design of excluding the present Royal Family, by constantly afferting their Right; and of introducing Popery and the Pretender, by continually delaring against them. In short, that He is a Republican Advocate for the present Constitution; a Popish Whig; an Hanoverian Facobite; and in all Probability, the secret Director of the Incendiaries at Bristol.

What can be done with fuch a mischievous and desperate Fellow:—He is so much inur'd to the Danger of HANGING, that to be sure He does not value an Halter a Straw; and our Laws are so strait-lac'd, that They will not allow us to deal with Him, as his seditious Brethren have

been dealt with in Frnace.

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But as all extraordinary Cases require extraoadinary Methods of Proceeding, I wonder our Author did not propose that all the Books, Pamphlets and Papers, which this wicked Incendiary hath dispers'd, should be carry'd to the Secretary of State's Office, to be torn in Pieces; that Richard Franklin, the Printer, shall be oblig'd to produce the written Copies, (if He hath not already burnt them;) and that Caleb D'Anvers shall, within the Space of one Month, sign a formal Retractation of all his pernicious Tenets; and submit Himself to the new Constitution of this Author and his Patron; That (as Duke Trincalo says) the Government may be suffer'd to drink in Quiet.

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